Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 11, line 11, with the following re-written paragraph:

—Animal studies were conducted in which eight covered stents were deployed in the arteries of two male pigs to observe the cellular response to the stents. The stents employed were balloon expandable stents of the type described in commonly-assigned U.S. Patent Application No. 09/628,096, filed concurrently herewith. The stents were covered in accordance with the method described above. A single ePTFE tube was utilized to provide the inner cover and the outer cover. The stents had expanded diameters of 6 - 8 mm. The ePTFE used to cover each stent had a wall thickness of 0.01 in. and an average IND of 139 microns in the unexpanded configuration.—

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the pending claims 1 and 6 as follows:

1. A radially deployable stent comprising:
a stent structure having an inner surface and an outer surface, and
a stent covering comprising
an inner cover of biocompatible material positioned adjacent said inner surface of said stent structure, and
an outer cover of biocompatible material positioned adjacent said outer surface of said stent structure,
wherein at least one of said biocompatible material of said inner cover and said biocompatible material of said outer cover has a predetermined thickness and has an average internodal distance (IND) of greater than 100 microns to reduce a deployment pressure necessary to expand the stent and enable use of the stent.

6. A radially deployable stent comprising:

a stent structure having an inner surface and an outer surface, and

a stent covering comprising

an inner cover of biocompatible material positioned adjacent said inner surface of said stent structure, and

an outer cover of biocompatible material positioned adjacent said outer surface of said stent structure,

wherein said stent covering has a radial thickness of at least about 0.008" and the average internodal distance (IND) of each of the inner cover and the outer cover is greater than 100 microns to reduce a deployment pressure necessary to expand the stent.